a controller receiving a message from a host and allowing a user to select a reply from a fixed form reply set stored in the reply data storage device, the fixed form reply set independent of the message;

an output device outputting the selected reply to the host,

wherein the fixed form reply sets are stored separately from the message.

25.   (TWICE AMENDED) A computer readable storage medium storing a computer program instructing a computer to perform:

storing a plurality of fixed form reply sets, each fixed form reply set containing a plurality of replies;

storing a message separately from the fixed form reply sets;

receiving the message from a host;

selecting a fixed form reply set independent of the message;

allowing a user to choose a reply from the selected fixed form reply set;

sending the chosen reply to the host; and

computing the frequency of chosen replies sent to the host.

REMARKS

I.   STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-25 are pending.

Various claims are amended.

II.   REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-4, 6-22 and 24-25 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Page 2 of the Office Action rejects claims 1-25 under 35 U.S.C. '103 as being unpatentable over Peter et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,893,098 (Hereinafter "Peters") in view of Pinter, U.S. Patent No. 5,893,098 (Hereinafter "Pinter").

In the previously filed Amendment, the Applicant argued that the cited art did not disclose or suggest that questions and answers are stored separately.

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In response, the Examiner cites a new reference Pinter. Pinter discloses a paging system in which a sender selects a canned question and selects canned answers in response to the question, and then the entire text is transmitted. For Example, the sender can select a canned question such as "what do you want for dinner?" and he will also select canned responses to the question, such as in this case, for example, "steak," "chicken" and "lobster." The receiver can then receive the question and selected responses, and choose a response which is transmitted back to the sender.

Claim 1 is amended to recite, "An electronic news system for managing an electronic message and a reply to said message, comprising: storage means for storing data for a fixed form reply, stored separately from the electronic message; output means for outputting the message with said data for a reply to the message, **said data for a reply independent of the message**; and control means for accepting only a selection out of the outputted data for a reply as the reply to the message." (emphasis added).

In the present invention as amended above, the reply data is independent of the message. This is in contrast to Pinter, where a user selects a canned message **and** a canned response(s) based on the message. See Pinter, Figure 2, which illustrates that a user selects a canned message 26, and also selects canned responses 40. Also, see Pinter, column 4, line 40 which reads, "the calling party browses through this file to determine which of the multiple response options are appropriate for addition to the selected canned message to be sent to the designated receiving party." Thus, the selected canned responses are dependent upon the original message.

This is different than claim 1 (as amended), which recites that, ". . . said data for a reply independent of the message . . ." This feature is not disclosed in Pinter. Further, nothing in Pinter suggests this feature either. Since one of the goals of Pinter is, "transmitting certain messages with an improved degree of message compression" (Pinter, column 1, lines 41-42), Pinter actually teaches away from the claim 1 by selecting only appropriate canned responses.

Further, the Applicant submits that the combination of Peters and Pinter also does not suggest the present invention. Peter does not store questions and answers separately, and therefore, nothing in the combination of both references would suggest the features of claim 1 discussed above.

Further, on page 3 of the Action, the Examiner articulates four reasons suggesting the combination of Peter with Pinter. However, all four reasons are mere advantages of the resultant combination. In order for there to be a valid motivation to combine references, there must be some objective teaching to combine the references. Every invention has advantages over the prior art, which

is why they were invented in the first place. Advantages do not render an invention, or a combination of references, obvious.

Independent claims 7, 9, 13, 17, 21 and 25 are amended similarly to claim 1, and in view of the above discussion, should also be allowed over the cited art.

In view of the above remarks, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Dependent claims 2-6, 8, 10-12, 14-16. 18-20, and 22-23 are dependent upon claims 1, 7, 9, 13, 17, 21 and 25, respectively, which for the above reasons should be allowed over the prior art.

Therefore, in view of the above, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

IV.   REJECTION OF CLAIMS 5 AND 23 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Page 16 of the Office Action rejects claims 5 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Peters and Pinter and further in view of Ginter et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,982,891 (Hereinafter "Ginter").

Claims 5 and 23 are dependent upon claims 1 and 21, which for the reasons set forth in section III of this Amendment should be allowed over the prior art. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejections of claims 5 and 23 is respectfully requested.
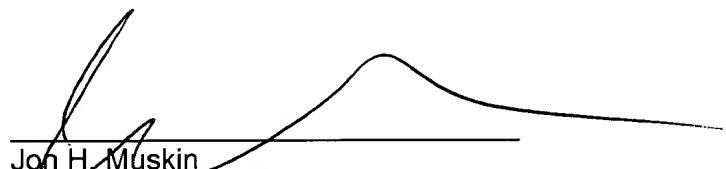
V.   CONCLUSION

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If any further fees are required by the submission of this Amendment, please charge same to deposit account no. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND the claims as follows (all of the claims are listed below, whether amended or unamended):

1.   (THREE TIMES AMENDED) An electronic news system for managing an electronic message and a reply to said message, comprising:

storage means for storing data for a fixed form reply, stored separately from the electronic message;

output means for outputting the message with said data for a reply to the message, said data for a reply independent of the message; and

control means for accepting only a selection out of the outputted data for a reply as the reply to the message.

2.   (AS ONCE AMENDED) An electronic news system according to claim 1, further comprising:

fixed form reply managing means for managing a plurality of fixed form replies by data for respectively specifying said plurality of replies, and

totaling means for totaling a number of the selections of each of fixed form replies as the reply to the message, and storing results of the totalization of each of fixed form replies to the message in relation to said specifying data.

3.   (AS ONCE AMENDED) An electronic news system according to claim 1, wherein said control means has means for accepting an input of a free form reply to the message, and managing the inputted free form reply in relation to data to specify said message.

5.   (AS ONCE AMENDED) An electronic news system according to claim 2, wherein said control means has means for accepting an input of a free form reply to the message, and managing the inputted free form reply in relation to data to specify said message.

6.   (AS ONCE AMENDED) An electronic news system according to claim 1,

wherein said data for a fixed form reply is one kind or the combination of plural kinds of data selected from a plurality of kinds including text, still picture, speech, sound and moving pictures.

7. (AS ONCE AMENDED) An electronic news system according to claim 1, wherein said control means includes means for causing said output means to output data for a fixed form reply of the kind which fits contents of the message.

8. (THREE TIMES AMENDED) an electronic news system including a client apparatus and a server apparatus which manages an electronic message and a reply to said message transmitted from the client apparatus, said client apparatus comprising:

storage means for storing data for a fixed form reply, stored separately from the electronic message;

output means for outputting the message with said data for a reply to the message, said data for a reply independent of the message;

control means for accepting only a selection out of the outputted data for a reply as the reply to the message; and

communication control means for transmitting the selection to the server apparatus.

8. (AS UNAMENDED) An electronic news system according to claim 7, wherein the client apparatus comprises means for accepting an input of a free form reply to the message in said control means, and the server apparatus comprises free form reply managing means for managing the free form reply transmitted from the client apparatus in relation to data for specifying said message.

9. (THREE TIMES AMENDED) An electronic news system including a client apparatus and a server apparatus which manages electronic messages transmitted from the client apparatus, comprising:

said server apparatus comprising:

storage means for storing data for a fixed form reply, stored separately from the electronic messages;

communication control means for transmitting said data for a reply to the client apparatus;

said client apparatus comprising:

receiving control means for receiving said data for a reply sent from the server apparatus, said data for a reply independent of the electronic messages;

output means for outputting the message with the received data for a reply to the message;

control means for accepting only the selection out of the outputted data for a reply as the reply to the message; and

transmission control means for controlling the transmission for transmitting the selected reply to the server apparatus.

10.   (AS ONCE AMENDED) An electronic news system according to claim 9, wherein the client apparatus comprises fixed form reply managing means for managing a plurality of fixed form replies by data for respectively specifying said plurality of replies, and communication control means for transmitting specifying data of the selected reply to the server apparatus as a reply, and the server apparatus comprises communication control means for receiving the specifying data transmitted from the client apparatus as a reply, and totaling means for totaling a number of the selections of each reply as the reply to the message based on said specifying data, and storing the results of the totalization of each reply to said message in relation said specifying data.

11.   (AS UNAMENDED) An electronic news system according to claim 9, wherein the client apparatus comprises means for accepting an input of a free form reply to the message in said control means, and the server apparatus comprises free form reply managing means for managing free form reply transmitted from the client apparatus in relation to data for specifying said message.

12.   (AS UNAMENDED) An electronic news system according to claim 10, wherein the client apparatus comprises means for accepting an input of a free form reply to the message in said control means, and the server apparatus comprises free form reply managing means for managing the free form reply transmitted from the client apparatus in relation to data for specifying said message.

14.   (FOUR TIMES AMENDED) An electronic news system including a client

apparatus and a server apparatus which manages an electronic message and a reply to said message transmitted from the client apparatus,

said server apparatus comprising:

storage means for storing data for a first fixed form reply, stored separately from the electronic message and independent from the electronic message;

communication control means for transmitting the data for the first fixed form reply to tile client apparatus,

said client apparatus comprising:

receiving control means for receiving the first data for the first fixed form reply sent from the server apparatus;

storage means for storing data for second fixed form reply, stored separately from the message;

output means for outputting the message with said data for the first or second fixed form reply;

control means for accepting only a selection out of the outputted data for the first fixed form reply based on the category of the message as the reply to the message; and

means for controlling the transmission for transmitting the selected reply out of the data for the first or second fixed form reply to the server apparatus.

14.   (AS ONCE AMENDED) An electronic news system according to claim 13, wherein the server apparatus comprises fixed form reply managing means for managing a plurality of first fixed form replies with data for respectively specifying said replies, and means for transmitting the specifying data of the first fixed form reply to the client apparatus along with said reply,

the client apparatus comprises fixed form reply managing means for managing a plurality of second fixed form replies with the data for respectively specifying said replies, and means for causing said transmission controlling means to transmit the selected second reply or the selected specifying data of the first reply to the server apparatus as a reply,

said server apparatus further comprises means for transmitting specifying data of the second fixed form reply to the client apparatus, and means for receiving the second reply or specifying data of the first reply transmitted from the client apparatus as a reply in said communication control means, and totaling means for totaling a number of the selections of each reply as the reply to the message based

on said specifying data, and storing the results of the totalization of each reply to said message in relation said specifying data,

said client apparatus further comprises means for receiving the specifying data of the second fixed form reply sent from the server apparatus in said receiving control means, and means for outputting the stored second fixed form reply based on said specifying data in said output means.

15.   (AS UNAMENDED) An electronic news system according to claim 13, wherein the client apparatus comprises means for accepting an input of a free form reply to the message in said control means, and the server apparatus comprises free form reply managing means for managing the free form reply transmitted from the client apparatus in relation to data for specifying said message.

16.   (AS UNAMENDED) An electronic news system according to claim 14, wherein the client apparatus comprises means for accepting an input of a free form reply to the message in said control means, and the server apparatus comprises free form reply managing means for managing the free form reply transmitted from the client apparatus in relation to the data for specifying said message.

18.   (THREE TIMES AMENDED) A recording medium readable by a computer which manages an electronic message and a reply to said message, comprising:

program code means for causing said computer to store data for a fixed form reply in said computer, the fixed form reply being stored separately from the _electronic_ message;

program code means for causing said computer to output _the message with_ said data for a reply _to the message, said data for a reply independent of the message_; and

program code means for causing said computer to accept _only_ a selection out of the outputted data for a reply as the reply to said message.

18.   (AS ONCE AMENDED) A recording medium according to claim 17, further comprising:

program code means for causing said computer to manage a plurality of fixed form replies with data for respectively specifying said replies; and

program code means for causing said computer to total a number of the selections of each reply as the reply to the message and store the results of totaling the totalization of each reply to said messages in relation to said specifying data.

19.   (AS ONCE AMENDED) A recording medium according to claim 17, further comprising:

program code means for causing said computer to accept an input of a free form reply to the message; and

program code means for causing said computer to manage the inputted free form reply in relation to data for specifying said message.

20.   (AS ONCE AMENDED) A recording medium according to claim 18, further comprising:

program code means for causing said computer to accept an input of the free form reply to the message; and

program code means for causing said computer to manage the inputted free form reply in relation to data for specifying said message.

22.   (TWICE AMENDED) A message system comprising:

a reply data storage device storing a plurality of fixed form reply sets, each fixed form reply set containing a plurality of replies;

a controller receiving a message from a host and allowing a user to select a reply from a fixed form reply set stored in the reply data storage device, the fixed form reply set independent of the message;

an output device outputting the selected reply to the host,

wherein the fixed form reply sets are stored separately from the message.

22.   (AS UNAMENDED) The message system as recited in claim 21 wherein, the controller selects a fixed form reply set based on a category of the message.

23.   (AS UNAMENDED) The message system as recited in claim 21 wherein, the

reply sets can include video or audio data.

24.   (AS UNAMENDED) The message system as recited in claim 21 wherein, the
host receives a plurality of the outputted selected fixed form replies and displays a bar graph illustrating
a frequency of responses.

25.   (TWICE AMENDED) A computer readable storage medium storing a computer program
instructing a computer to perform:

storing a plurality of fixed form reply sets, each fixed form reply set containing a plurality of
replies;

storing a message separately from the fixed form reply sets;

receiving the message from a host;

selecting a fixed form reply set independent of the message;

allowing a user to choose a reply from the selected fixed form reply set;

sending the chosen reply to the host; and

computing the frequency of chosen replies sent to the host.